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REVIEWS OF BOOKS

BOOKS OF ANCIENT HISTORY

La Campagna Romana, Antica, Medioevale e Moderna. By GIUSEPPE TOMASSETTI. Volume III. *Vie Cassia e Clodia, Flaminia e Tiberina, Labicana e Prenestina.* (Rome: Ermanno Loescher and Company. 1913. Pp. xii, 583.)

THE death of the author soon after the appearance of the second volume has left the completion of this notable work in the hands of his son. This will cause no change in the plan or character of the book, which will remain for many years the standard work of reference for the Campagna of the Middle Ages and the present.

In the reviews of the earlier volumes in this journal (XV. 831, XVI. 339) the general characteristics of the book were pointed out, and the third volume presents no new features. It deals with those parts of the Campagna that are traversed by the four roads, Cassia, Clodia, Flaminia, and Tiberina, to the north of Rome, and two of those running to the southeast, the Labicana and Praenestina. This involves the description of about eighty *tenute* and forty communes, some of them of special interest, like Bracciano, Nepi, Sutri, Paliano, and Cave. As the territory traversed by the Clodia and Cassia was largely under the control of the Orsini, and the Colonna had their headquarters in Palestrina, this volume contains much important material for students of the history of these great families.

In general the inadequate treatment of the ancient period, noticed in the preceding volumes, is somewhat more striking here. This, however, is partly intentional, and due to the publication of Ashby's excellent papers on the Classical Topography of the Roman Campagna in the *Papers of the British School at Rome*. Where Ashby has already published his material, as in the case of the Labicana and Praenestina, Tomassetti simply refers to him for the discussion of the remains of antiquity, and seldom differs with him except in the identification of some ancient sites, *e. g.*, Scaptia and Passerano (p. 506), Pedum and Gallicano (p. 516). In these cases Ashby's doubt is quite justified. In this part of the book there are some errors and some statements that might easily be challenged, as that the Porta Maggiore carries five aqueducts (p. 380), that Gabii is derived from Cabum (p. 496), that the Porta Ratumenna in Rome was between the Capitoline and Quirinal hills (p. 200), that the Ponte Lupo served only to carry the Claudian aqueduct (p. 522), and that the Ponte di Nona was built by Sulla (p. 477). The removal of Fidenae from its traditional site to a point considerably

farther north on the west bank of the Tiber near Ponte Storta is not supported by cogent arguments.

It is, however, with the medieval and modern periods that the author is chiefly concerned, and it is here that the great value of the book lies. In this third volume the reader is again impressed most forcibly with the astonishing amount of detailed information furnished, and with the labor that has been expended in toilsome and painstaking investigation of documents and archives. Only infrequently has the author been able to avail himself to any great degree of the work of others. To handle satisfactorily material of this amount and kind is no light task, and the book is far from being easy reading. It is ponderous in form and content, perhaps unavoidably so, but a little more care and skill in arrangement would have made it much more useful and attractive. An elaborate index will now be doubly necessary. There are some misprints, and one can not help wishing that the author would decide to be consistent in writing either *monastero* or *monistero*.

S. B. P.

BOOKS OF MEDIEVAL AND MODERN EUROPEAN HISTORY

Canute the Great, 995 (circ.)-1035, and the Rise of Danish Imperialism during the Viking Age. By LAURENCE MARCELLUS LARSON, Ph.D., Associate Professor of History, University of Illinois. [Heroes of the Nations, edited by H. W. C. Davis.] (New York and London: G. P. Putnam's Sons. 1912. Pp. xviii, 375.)

THIS is the first treatment of the subject in English which takes into sufficient consideration the Scandinavian sources and literature. As a consequence the figure of Canute is placed in a new perspective against the Scandinavian background. Canute stands forth as the best representative of the viking age and movement (p. vii), and his career in Professor Larson's hands becomes "the history of Danish imperialism carried to a swift realisation" (pp. 2-3).

This point of view not only affects the apportionment of the narrative, but also leads to significant new conclusions concerning the policies of Canute. More than half the book is occupied with Scandinavian affairs. A chapter (I.) containing a brief survey of the position of Denmark in the northern world during the tenth century, which explains the heritage of imperialistic ambition received by Canute from his ancestors, two chapters (VIII., XIII.) on Scandinavian institutions, and three chapters (IX.-XI.) on Canute's conquest of Norway, are concerned almost solely with this aspect of the subject, and it receives a prominent place in four chapters (VI., XII., XIV., XV.) on the empire as a whole. Only three chapters (II.-IV.), dealing with the Danish conquest of England (1003-1016), and two (V., VII.), covering the early years of Canute's